

OTF Points of Contact

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Operation Tribute to Freedom (OTF) is a Department of the Army, Community Relations and Outreach program designed to honor Soldiers and give them opportunities to thank the American people for their support. For more information about Operation Tribute to Freedom visit www.army.mil/otf or contact one of our area offices:

WWW.ARMY.MIL/OTF



Welcome Home

Every day, Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terrorism risk their lives in operations that help secure the freedom of all American people. Whether they are veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom or Noble Eagle, the one campaign that matters when they return home is Operation Tribute to Freedom (OTF) – the Army's program to honor Soldiers and give them opportunities to thank the American people for their support.

Just as Soldiers vow to never leave a fallen comrade, Operation Tribute to Freedom's goal is to never leave a Soldier's story untold. By working with Army Public Affairs Officers (PAOs), OTF proactively identifies media, speaking, and recognition opportunities to ensure that homecomings last longer than one day and that American Soldiers stay connected with the American people.

No event is too big or too small. For more information on how OTF can help amplify your outreach activities, visit www.army.mil/otf to register your event and to download the *Operation Tribute to Freedom Guide to Saluting Soldiers and Sharing Their Stories*.

**Operation Tribute to Freedom helps the American people better understand our troops
– one Soldier's story at a time.**



Operation Tribute To Freedom Services

SOLDIER HOMECOMING SUPPORT

OTF assists units, PAOs, and family readiness groups (FRGs) in preparing memorable homecoming events for Soldiers and their families. OTF facilitates requests for military assets, including aerial support, color guards, and the Army Field Band. OTF also coordinates requests for senior leader participation and enhances existing media efforts.

Homecomings are the centerpiece of OTF operations. Once the official homecoming activities are over, Soldiers, working through their Public Affairs Officers, are encouraged to take advantage of these additional OTF Services:

OTF SPEAKERS SERVICE & SOLDIER RECOGNITION EVENTS

From privates to general officers, the OTF Speakers Service links event coordinators with Soldier volunteers. OTF also helps coordinate logistics, provides speaker packets and, as requested, offers media relations support to OTF speakers.

By including returning veterans as speakers, national and local community groups can recognize and honor hometown heroes while receiving first-hand accounts of Soldiers' experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Recognition events offer a chance for the public to salute Soldiers for their service. Soldiers registered in the OTF database are considered to attend local and national recognition events ranging from local parades and festivals to



national sporting events like the Super Bowl and Daytona 500. In coordination with local PAOs, OTF helps identify Soldiers, coordinates Army participation and assets, and, as requested, provides media relations support to the Soldiers.

How They Work. Soldiers interested in volunteering for the Speakers Service or Soldier Recognition Events can register online at www.army.mil/otf to become part of the OTF database. Event coordinators submit requests for Soldiers, for speaking or recognition events, 30-90 days in advance of events. OTF reviews the database for Soldiers within a 45-mile radius and then contacts the appropriate PAO of the Soldier volunteer.

SOLDIERS NEWS SERVICE

The Soldiers News Service works with PAOs to proactively engage the media to tell the human-interest stories of Soldiers recently returned from fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. We work to place feature stories that help readers understand that American Soldiers are more than warriors – they're spouses, sons, daughters, siblings, and friends. They have hobbies and dreams, and they are proud to combine their passion with their service.

How It Works. OTF reviews installation and local publications to identify news stories of interest to national, specialty and trade media outlets. OTF coordinates with PAOs to identify Soldiers and to proactively engage media outlets with feature news angles that highlight Soldiers and their stories.

- SOLDIER HOMECOMING SUPPORT
- OTF SPEAKERS SERVICE
- SOLDIER RECOGNITION EVENTS
- SOLDIERS NEWS SERVICE (SNS)